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Book Notices.

The Documentary Hypothesis of Genesis.

The Genesis of Genesis. A study of the documentary sources of the First Book of Moses, in accordance with the results of critical science, illustrating the presence of Bibles within the Bible. By Benjamin Wisner Bacon. With an introduction by Geo. F. Moore, Professor in Andover Theo. Sem. Hartford: Student Publishing Co. 1892. Pp. xxx., 352. Price, \$2.50.

A large amount of magazine literature and newspaper discussion has appeared, treating of the tenets of Higher Criticism as regards the origin of the Hexateuch. Not many books, however, have yet been published in English upon the subject. Some ardent advocate of the Analysis might set forth his belief in forcible and lofty language, or some determined opponent might write to brand the theory as wicked and unreasonable. But better than either of these partisan works would be a book which would set forth and explain the new hypothesis of the advanced scholars, such as would assist the laity in forming an intelligent opinion for themselves. This is the purpose and spirit of Mr. Bacon's book before us. He has pursued his investigation and prepared this volume from the point of view of a pastor among the people. Yet he is no less scholarly on that account. The writer of the Introduction, who is one of the foremost Old Testament scholars of America, says: "A more competent guide through the labyrinth of the analysis would be hard to find . . . [this book] is the fruit of long and thorough study of the text, and of intimate acquaintance with the extensive and widely scattered literature of recent criticism." And those who know of Mr. Bacon's work along this line will agree with Prof. Moore that no one could have better presented the Analysis to the general reader.

The main portion of the book falls into three parts. Part I. treats of the science of documentary analysis and the science of historical criticism, giving the arguments for and against the present study of the Hexateuch, and presenting the analysis in detail as arranged by Dillmann. The author maintains that there is a "real and extraordinarily minute agreement of all schools of documentary analysis," that Dillmann's scheme is in the main and essentially that of all the critics, and that therefore the presentation given is the consensus of modern criticism on the subject. Part II. reproduces the Book of Genesis, in the translation of the Revisers, in accordance with the findings of the Analysts. Six different styles of letter are used, each representing a particular writer or redactor, and all material credited to him appears in his individual type as it is reached in the body of the text. The main documents in Genesis are three: (1) that of the Judæan prophetic writer, dating about 800 B. C. (2) that of the Ephraimite prophetic writer, dating from about 750 B. C. (3) that of the Priestly legal-historical writer, dating from about 450 B. C. Abundant marginal references and foot-notes are added to illustrate and explain the analytical process and the text itself. This graphic partition of the material will prove very fruitful for the thought and study of those who are curious to know what the Analysis accomplishes. Part III. gives the

entire book of Genesis once more, but instead of the continuous form of the Bible, it gives each document by itself in a revised translation and with textual emendations.

It is probably impossible for one who has given much time to the investigation of the Hexateuchal problem not to lean somewhat strongly either to the analytic or to the traditional view. Moreover, it is unlikely, in the nature of things, that one who holds the traditional view should exert himself to present a view in which he does not believe. Mr. Bacon does not care to conceal his acceptance of the Analysis. The work he has done in this volume required not only a familiarity but a sympathy with the theory. But he has made his presentation as an expositor, not as an advocate, and leaves the reader free to ascertain the facts and judge for himself. The author's attitude is worthy of imitation. With all that is involved in the settlement of the problem even scholars do well to wait and study and think, while the general public may be commended to a theoretical indecision, and a practical adherence to the traditional view until more certainty can be arrived at regarding the new hypothesis.

A Harmony of Ancient History.

A Harmony of Ancient History and Chronology of the Egyptians and Jews. By Malcome Macdonald, A. M. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co., 1891. Pp. 301. Price \$2.00.

Comparative chronology has become an important branch of investigation, now that so much new historical material has come to hand. There has been some fear lest the monuments might present dates and events which by conflicting with them would tend to discredit the dates and events of the Old Testament Scriptures. To exhibit the facts of the case was the author's purpose, and the result of his work shows how little occasion there was for such fear, for the two chronologies are seen to be in not only substantial, but also in close agreement. It is impossible to make a satisfactory harmony of ancient history—that is, of the Jews, Egyptians, Assyrians, Babylonians, Persians and Greeks. Attempts at this were made very early, and so many alterations were made in existing chronological tables that the result ever since has been a lasting confusion in some particulars. Mr. Macdonald has undertaken, with every research at hand, and with skill, scholarship and patience, to reach the truest and most definite results possible. The care, accuracy and thoroughness bestowed upon the work insure its trustworthiness. The book will be regarded as an authority, and its usefulness to Old Testament students will be large.

The Prayers of Christ.

The Prayers of Jesus Christ. By C. J. Vaughan, D. D. New York: Macmillan & Co., 1891. Pp. 123.

A most interesting subject is treated in this little book. The prayers of Jesus Christ have not received study enough, in their comparative, collective and historical aspects. Dr. Vaughan considers them, in these lectures, as sources of religious instruction, selecting five prayers as representative, and devoting the first lecture to the consideration of them all in their general aspect. He writes in an inspiring and suggestive way, and it would be well if the reading of Dr. Vaughan's book would inspire some scholar to a fuller and wider treatment of the same subject, for which many are eagerly waiting.